

Appl. No. 10/809,357  
Amendment dated: November 7, 2005  
Reply to OA of: July 6, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1(currently amended). A welding flux for use in welding stainless steel parts, the welding flux ~~comprising a base material obtained from~~ consisting essentially of over 70wt% manganese peroxide ( $\text{MnO}_2$ ), and at least one activator selected from a material group that includes zinc oxide ( $\text{ZnO}$ ), silicon dioxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), chromium oxide ( $\text{CrO}_2$ ), titanium dioxide ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ), molybdenum dioxide ( $\text{MoO}_2$ ), and iron oxide ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_2$ ), ~~wherein said base material is over 70wt% in the welding flux.~~

Claim 2(canceled).

3(original). The welding flux as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total amount of said at least one activator is below 30wt% in the welding flux.

4(original). The welding flux as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle size of said base material and said at least one activator is at least #325.

Claims 5-9(canceled).

10(previously presented). The welding flux as claimed in claim 1, wherein the manganese peroxide base material takes about 80 wt % of the welding flux and zinc oxide is the activator that takes about 20 wt % of the welding flux.

11(previously presented). The welding flux of claim 10, wherein the particle size of the base material and the activator is at least #325.

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12(previously presented). The welding flux of claim 1, wherein the activator present is zinc oxide and silicon dioxide.

13(previously presented). The welding flux of claim 12, wherein the particle size of the base material and the activator is at least #325.

14(new). The welding flux of claim 12, wherein the zinc oxide take about 20wt% of the welding flux and silicon dioxide takes about 10wt% of the welding flux.

15(new). The welding flux of claim 1, wherein the activator present is zinc oxide.

16(new). The welding flux of claim 15, wherein the particle size of the base material and the activator is at least #325.